

# **Homeland Security Advisory System**



# What is the Homeland Security Advisory System?

## Five Threat Conditions

Severe = Red

High = Orange

Elevated = Yellow

Guarded = Blue

Low = Green



# Background and Purpose

- Established through HSPD-3 on March 12, 2002
- Provides a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist attacks to Federal, state and local authorities and to the American people
- Seeks to inform and facilitate decisions appropriate to different levels of government and to private citizens

# How is the Threat Condition Determined?

- Qualitative assessment of threat information including the following factors:
  - Is the threat credible?
  - Is the threat corroborated?
  - Is the threat specific and/or imminent?
  - How grave is the threat?

# Protective Measures

- The specific steps an organization shall take to reduce its vulnerability or increase its ability to respond during a period of heightened alert
- Authority for developing and implementation rests in Federal departments and agencies
- Federal department and agency heads submit an annual written report to the President describing their Protective Measures for each Threat Condition

# **Protective Measures Low Condition (Green)**

1. Refining and exercising as appropriate preplanned Protective Measures;
2. Ensuring personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific preplanned department or agency Protective Measures; and
3. Institutionalizing a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities

# **Protective Measures Guarded Condition (Blue)**

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1. Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations;
2. Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and
3. Providing the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately

# **Protective Measures Elevated Condition (Yellow)**

1. Increasing surveillance of critical locations;
2. Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;
3. Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and
4. Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans



# Protective Measures High Condition (Orange)

1. Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;
2. Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
3. Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and
4. Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only

# **Protective Measures Severe Condition (Red)**

1. Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
2. Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources
3. Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
4. Closing public and government facilities

## For More Information...

- The Department of Homeland Security Web Page  
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29/>
- Press releases regarding the Homeland Security Advisory System (including the full text of Presidential Directive-3)  
[www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020312-1.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020312-1.html)